Cleaning contaminated porous PTFE membranes - by sequential immersion in dil. aq. solns. of sodium hypochlorite and mixed surfactants with water-rinse and air -drying.

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     Particulate matter collected on a porous PTFE membrane is removed by
     separate two-stage contact of the membrane with (A) a dil. aq. surfactant
     mixt. comprising anionic sulphonate surfactant (I), nonionic hydrocarbyl
     oxyethylated surfactant (II) and anionic alkyl diamine tetraacetate
     surfactant (III), and (B) dil. aq. sodium hypochlorite. Either (A) or (B)
     may be used first, and the membrane is washed with
     water after the first and/or second stage, before finally drying. Opt. the usea of (B) may be omitted.
          USE/ADVANTAGE - Filters made of PTFE, esp. microporous material, are
     widely used in applications involving removal of particulate matter e.g.
     dirt, lint, bacterial and viruses, from air. The inventive process
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USE/ADVANTAGE - Filters made of PTFE, esp. microporous material, are widely used in applications involving removal of particulate matter e.g. dirt, lint, bacterial and viruses, from air. The inventive process provides a simple economical method for removing the accumulated filtered material to enable re-use of the filter, without impairing its throughput or efficiency.